

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) An absorbent member having a thickness dimension, a first surface and an opposed second surface, said second surface being separated from said first surface by said thickness dimension,

said absorbent member being substantially hydrophilic and comprising at least one region with particles of a substantially water-soluble chitosan salt having a particle size distribution with a mean diameter $D(v,0.9)$ of not more than about 300 μm .
2. (Original) The absorbent member of claim 1, wherein said region is positioned on said first and/or second surface of said absorbent member.
3. (Currently Amended) The absorbent member of claims ~~1 or 2~~ claim 1, wherein said particles have a particle size distribution with a mean diameter $D(v,0.9)$ of from about 10 nm to about 300 μm .
4. (Original) The absorbent member of claim 3, wherein said particles have a particle size distribution with a mean diameter $D(v,0.9)$ of from about 10 to about 800 nm.
5. (Original) The absorbent member of claim 1, wherein said chitosan salt has a degree of deacetylation of more than about 70%.
6. (Original) The absorbent member claim 1, wherein said chitosan salt is chitosonium pyrrolidone carboxylate and/or chitosonium lactate.
7. (Original) The absorbent member of claim 1, wherein said absorbent member comprises a dry laid hydrophilic fibrous web.

8. (Original) The absorbent member of claim 1, wherein said region comprises said particles in an amount of from about 0.1 to about 200 g per square meter.
9. (Original) The absorbent member of claim 2, wherein at least about 40% of at least one surface of said absorbent member is covered by said regions with particles of chitosan material.
10. (Original) The absorbent member of claim 9, wherein about 100% of at least one surface of said absorbent member is covered by said regions with particles of chitosan material.
11. (Original) Process for making an absorbent member, said process comprising the steps of:
 - (a) forming a precursor web having a first and a second surface, said second surface being approximately aligned opposite to said first surface, and
 - (b) applying during process step (a) onto at least one surface of said precursor web a solution or dispersion comprising a chitosan material, and/or
 - (b') applying after process step (a) onto at least one surface of said precursor web a solution or dispersion comprising a chitosan material, and
 - (c) drying said precursor web, whereby forming at least one region with particles of chitosan material having a particle size distribution with a mean diameter $D(v,0.9)$ of not more than about 300 μm on said surface of said precursor web on which said solution or dispersion of chitosan material was applied in steps (b) and/or (b'),

wherein said solution or dispersion is applied onto said precursor web in the form of a spray of droplets, said droplets having a droplet size distribution with a mean diameter $D(v,0.9)$ of not more than about 1500 μm .
12. (Original) The process of claim 11, wherein said particles have a particle size distribution with a mean diameter $D(v,0.9)$ of from about 10 nm to about 300 μm .
13. (Original) The process of claim 12, wherein said particles have a particle size distribution with a mean diameter $D(v,0.9)$ of from about 10 to about 800 nm.
14. (Original) The process of claim 11, wherein step (b) is not carried out, said process comprising the additional steps of:

- (a') applying latex onto at least one surface of said precursor web, and
 - (a'') drying said precursor web, said process being wherein steps (a') and (a'') are carried out after said step (a) and before said step (b').
15. (Currently Amended) The process of ~~claims 11, 12 or 14~~ claim 11, comprising the additional step of:
- (d) second web formation process, wherein step (d) is carried out after said step (c).
16. (Original) The process of claim 11, wherein said precursor web comprises dry laid hydrophilic fibrous web.
- 17-18. (Canceled)
19. (Original) The process of claim 11, wherein said solution or dispersion of chitosan material is an aqueous solution or dispersion, comprising from about 0.1 to about 40% by weight of said chitosan material.
20. (Original) The process of claim 19, wherein said solution or dispersion of chitosan material is an aqueous solution or dispersion, comprising about 4% by weight of said chitosan material.
21. (Original) The process of claim 11, wherein said solution or dispersion of chitosan material is applied in an amount of about 1 to about 1000 ml of said solution or dispersion of chitosan material per square meter of said precursor web.
- 22-28. (Canceled)